INTERPOL AT WORK

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INTERPOL

2004

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2004

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Secretary General's foreword

Ronald K. Noble

Secretary General's foreword

As 2004 ended, a massive tsunami devastated southeast Asia and killed more than 200,000 people. That catastrophe on 26 December set in motion what would become Interpol's biggest-ever operational response. In the immediate aftermath, Interpol's Command and Co-ordination Centre swung into action, offering communications support to affected countries, co-ordination of international Disaster Victim Identification personnel, and the dispatch of Incident Response Teams.

DVI teams from member countries, IRTs, the Command and Co-ordination Centre and an international Crisis Management Support Group would work in the months that followed to devise a system not just for the tsunami disaster but for any major tragedy that requires a rapid and co-ordinated police response.

Also at the end of 2004, teams of Interpol staff were preparing what for would be the organization's biggest-ever international gathering, the 1st Interpol Global Conference on Preventing Bio-Terrorism, which in March 2005 would bring together more than 500 delegates from 155 countries.

The groundwork for those two major efforts, and for other successes that followed, was laid in 2004, when a range of important Interpol initiatives and procedures began to bear fruit.

The year also saw the election of Interpol's first president from Africa, Jackie Selebi. New Executive Committee members from the UK, Mexico and Chile were elected, and Tajikistan became the 182nd member of the Interpol family.

Throughout 2004, attention remained firmly focused on the organization's three core functions: secure global police communications services, operational data services for police, and operational police support services.

Each of the core functions saw considerable advances in 2004, thanks to the dedicated work of Interpol's staff and National Central Bureaus. More than 70% of member countries were connected to I-24/7, Interpol's global police communications system, by the end of the year. Our international criminal databases contained more records of higher quality than ever before, which make them ever more useful to police investigators. And the range and quality of Interpol's other support services for police in all regions showed marked improvements.

I am particularly proud to report that the number of new Red Notices jumped by nearly 40% in 2004 to more than 1,900, and that nearly 3,000 individuals who were the subject of Interpol notices or diffusions were apprehended in 2004.

But all of this is not enough. We must continue to improve and develop our services to the world's police. The continuing challenge is to bring the right law enforcement partners together across the globe, with the right tools and services, so that more and more international criminals can be brought to justice every year.

Ronald K. Noble

SECURE GLOBAL POLICE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Interpol's first core function, the provision of secure global police communications services, is about the timely and effective exchange, storage and processing of crucial information. The aim is to connect member countries and provide them with secure and reliable access to police information and services.

INTERPOL'S GLOBAL POLICE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM — I-24/7

By the end of 2004, 72% of the Interpol membership (131 countries) had been connected to the I-24/7 system, as well as 21 additional sites around the world, including Interpol Sub-Regional Bureaus (SRBs) and certain regional law enforcement organizations. Forty-seven countries and 11 sites were connected during 2004, some of which had never been successfully connected to the previous Interpol telecommunications network. Countries unable to connect because they lacked the proper infrastructure — in particular some 40 countries in Africa — were to be connected as soon as possible via a sophisticated satellite system.

The I-24/7 system provides the technical flexibility to allow connection beyond National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and the extension of Interpol services to law enforcement officers in the field. It also enhances the role of NCBs as they oversee the planning and implementation of extended connections to other law enforcement users in more than 40 countries so far. The General Secretariat provides ongoing advice and assistance to enable countries to develop systems that meet their specific needs.

Security and access control
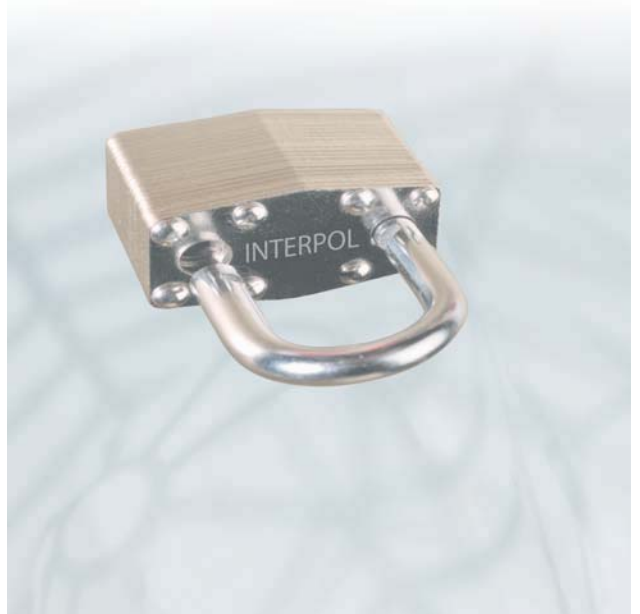
The security of the I-24/7 system is governed by a charter adopted by the General Assembly in 2003. This provides a solid framework for the most secure communications system Interpol has ever implemented.

It combines best technological practice with stringent procedures overseen by a National Security Officer (NSO) in each NCB.

NSOs meet regularly to consult with one another on national and General Secretariat security issues relating to I-24/7. They identify and propose solutions to emerging and potential security threats, and they review and recommend policies to maintain the security of the system. One recommendation already implemented is the creation of second NSO user accounts to ensure a permanent security presence and an efficient back-up. All NCBs have been strongly urged to take up this option.

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New services

I-24/7 services are accessed through the
Dashboard in any of the four official Interpol
languages (English, French, Spanish or Arabic).
The services are reviewed regularly at the
General Secretariat and by the I-24/7 Users
Advisory Group, which meets throughout the
year.

Developments in response to the specific
requests of the user group during 2004
included:

> an integrated NCB address book
> increased bandwidth for greater speed
  during periods of heavy usage, with an
  option for further upgrades as necessary
> installation of back-up lines from
  independent Internet service providers
> an Interpol-related world press digest
  ('Daily News')
> improved business-to-business (B2B)
  connectivity for connections beyond
  NCBs
> a new option to allow the export of
  database search results to national
  computer systems
> the addition of a mandatory distinction
  between operational and administrative
  searches
> a new 'security alert message' form to
  request the publication of Orange Notices
> an updated 'diffusion' form including the
  new European arrest warrant
> preparations for direct searches of the
  stolen works of art database.

I-24/7 training

Effective training is a vital factor in the
successful use of I-24/7. The strategy includes
a mix of direct face-to-face training and self-
guided e-learning modules. A 'train the trainer'
programme has been implemented on a
regional basis to ensure that all countries are
able to make best use of the system. In 2004,
nine training courses took place in Africa,
Asia, the Caribbean, Central and North
America and Europe. A number of officers in
countries from Europe and the Middle East
were also trained individually. In total, 135
countries had their own certified I-24/7
trainers by the end of the year.

Technicians from the SRBs were trained
at the General Secretariat in Lyon and
several have since been able to provide
substantial assistance in the deployment
of I-24/7 in Africa. Eleven internal training
sessions were also held during the year
for some 80 staff and officers at the
General Secretariat.

AT WORK

As part of Interpol's larger communication strategy for NCBs, communication and marketing materials (brochures, CD-ROMs, fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) were developed to encourage member countries to use the I-24/7 system as an integrated police service and not simply as a telecommunications network. Regular information was provided to member countries through frequent I-24/7 bulletins and a model NCB was used to demonstrate the Interpol tools available through the system.

I-24/7 costs

Although the I-24/7 communication system offers vastly improved services, it costs far less to run than the former X.400 system or other alternatives. Annual costs for communications and maintenance have decreased by more than 70% – one million euros in 2004 compared to 3.4 million euros in 2002. Once all countries have been connected, it is expected that I-24/7 will have been implemented at two-thirds of the originally projected cost for X.400 replacement.

COMMUNICATION THROUGH INTERPOL CHANNELS

The number of messages exchanged through the integrated I-24/7 network doubled in 2004 to 6.7 million compared to 2003. NCBs have responded positively to continuing encouragement to share more messages with the General Secretariat. The increase in the number of messages helps to enhance the quality and quantity of information contained in the central databases, which, in turn, raises the quality and quantity of positive responses to database queries.

There have been extremely impressive increases in message traffic in all regions between 2002, when the I-24/7 system was introduced, and 2004. In the Americas, message traffic in that period jumped by almost 500%, in Asia 250%, in Europe 200%, in Africa 150% and in North Africa and the Middle East 90%.

The European region still accounts for more than half of message traffic over the I-24/7 system, but this is likely to change once all countries in Africa are connected to I-24/7 and other regions become more accustomed to using the new system.

Message traffic jumped
for each Interpol region
between 2002 and 2004:

Middle East and North Africa 90%
Africa 150%
Europe 200%
Asia 250%
The Americas 500%

Interpol's second core function involves the development of programmes and data services for police, such as global databases of names, fingerprints, photographs, DNA profiles, travel and identification documents, and notices.

DATABASES

In general terms, Interpol databases are growing in size, are more frequently consulted and are seeing an increase in positive results.

Nominal

The number of records in the nominal database increased by more than 7% in 2004, to 166,000. As the database grows in size and quality it is increasingly useful as a law enforcement tool, as indicated by the 2004 increase of nearly 20% in the number of searches performed. This resulted in approximately 33,000 hits, an increase of more than 50% over 2003.

Database of individuals

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Total individuals | Searches | Hits |
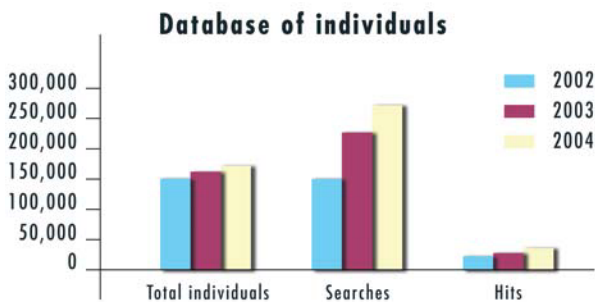
Fingerprints

As a result of significant efforts made in 2004 to expand the number of records in the Interpol fingerprint database, the number of such records rose to nearly 40,000, an increase of 5%. Access via I-24/7 has been a major factor in raising awareness of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and the database has been specially promoted in selected countries. By having a larger database with more relevant files, Interpol will be able to increase the number of identifications and confirmations of identity.

DNA

Interpol is developing an international DNA gateway which provides online access to a centralised DNA profile matching system. As always, legal frameworks vary from country to country, so an Interpol DNA Charter was developed with international partners to address related data protection and privacy issues.

At the end of 2004 there were 14,215 profiles recorded in the database from 28 countries. This was a massive increase from just 74 records in July 2003. In April 2004, the first DNA database hit occurred, involving a Slovenian crime scene profile and a Croatian reference profile.

AT WORK

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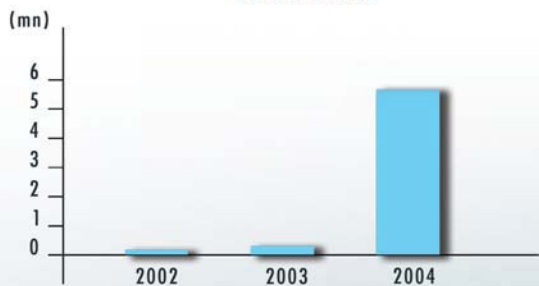
Lost/stolen travel documents

Such documents are increasingly used to facilitate illegal activities and are extremely useful to terrorists, organized crime groups or those involved in illegal immigration, drug trafficking, economic crime and credit card fraud. Using the Interpol database, NCBs can quickly ascertain whether a document is stolen or part of a series of stolen identification documents and can then contact the relevant national authorities to gain more details. Access to this kind of information is particularly helpful at border control points.

By the end of 2004 there were more than 5,700,000 stolen/lost travel documents from 66 countries in the database and 88 countries consulted it on a regular basis.

This was a massive increase over the 2003 total of 299,000 documents. The database has grown exponentially since its inception in 2002, when it contained just 159,000 entries, but it is clear that there are millions of unreported stolen travel documents still in circulation. The development of the database was given an important boost in 2004 after its use was endorsed by the European Union, the G8, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), all of which recommended that their member countries contribute data and use the service.

Number of lost/stolen travel documents in database


(mn)

	2002	2003	2004

By the end of 2004 there were more than 5,700,000 stolen/ lost travel documents from 66 countries in the database and 88 countries consulted it regularly.

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Stolen motor vehicles

During 2004, 85 countries contributed data to Interpol from their national stolen vehicle databases and 119 used the database regularly. At the end of 2004, the database contained information on 3,236,685 vehicles, an increase of nearly 20% from 2003. Checks of the database rose by 15%.

Stolen motor vehicle database

(mn) — Number of vehicles

3.5, 3, 2.5, 2, 1.5, 1, 0.5, 0 — 2002, 2003, 2004
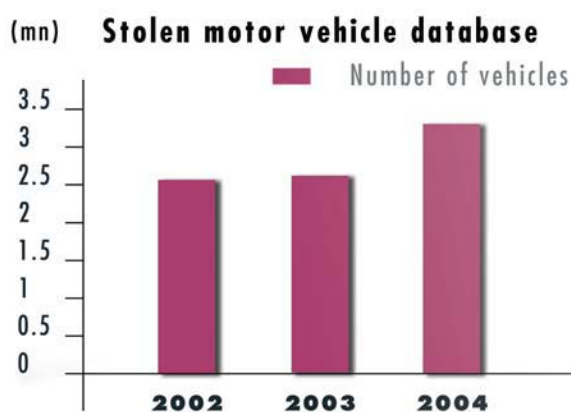
Child abuse images

During 2004, the Interpol child abuse image database continued to play a key role in the worldwide co-ordination of child victim identification activities. The Interpol child abuse image database contains more than 400,000 images. More than 300 child victims have been officially identified since the creation of the database, with 68 identified and rescued in 2004 alone through the collaboration of 21 countries.

General Secretariat activities in this area include:

> carrying out image analysis
> facilitating contact and communication between member countries
> exchanging information and intelligence with other agencies
> sharing expertise with other organizations
> training child victim identification officers
> developing new child victim identification strategies.

AT WORK

Stolen works of art

The stolen works of art database contains more than 25,000 entries from 109 countries. Every year since 2002, the Interpol stolen works of art team has opened more than 500 new cases.

Stolen works of art database
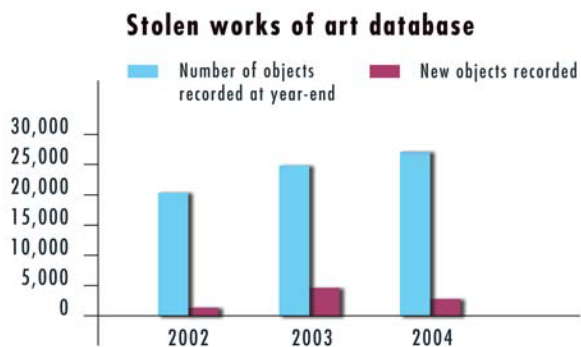
Note: Stolen Iraqi cultural property accounted for the unusually high number of new entries in 2003.

The Interpol Tracking Task Force for cultural property stolen in Iraq continued to meet in 2004, maintaining its focus on practical procedures for the identification and recovery of stolen items. Interpol is the designated single contact point for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on seizures and police investigations in this area.
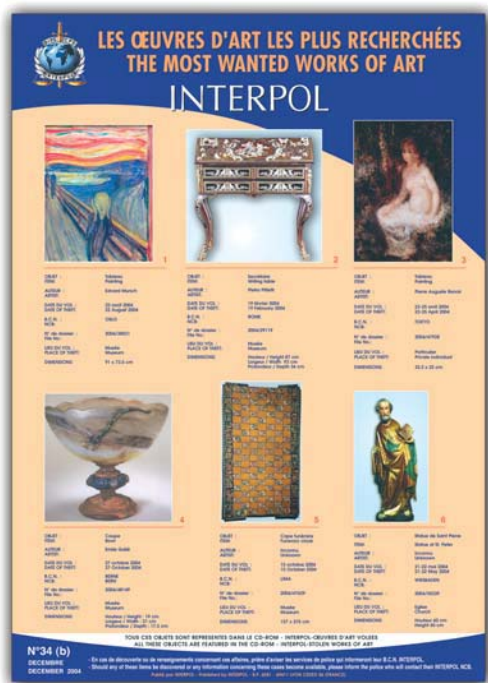
NOTICES

Interpol notices are a key tool for international police co-operation and their use has risen steadily, in line with the increasing use of the I-24/7 system and the electronic notice request process. The five types of notices for individuals are:

> Red - to seek the arrest or provisional arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition based on an arrest warrant.

> Yellow - to help locate missing persons, especially minors, or to help identify persons who are not able to identify themselves.

> Blue - to collect additional information about a person's identity or activities in relation to a criminal matter.

> Green - to provide warnings and criminal intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.

> Black - to seek the identity of unidentified bodies.

Notices published 2002 2003 2004
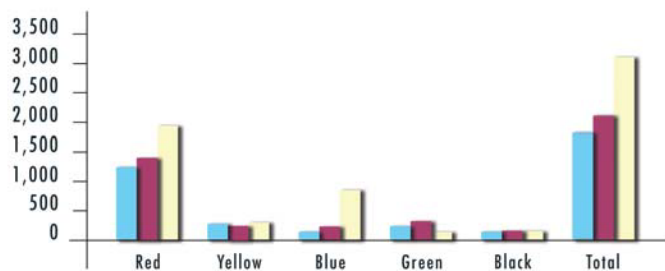
In 2004, 3,161 notices were published. The number of new Red Notices jumped by nearly 40% in 2004 to 1,924 and there was also a dramatic increase in the use of Blue Notices, which rose by almost 400%. This was due in part to the more proactive stance taken by the General Secretariat through its terrorism and fugitive investigative support activities.

Another much-used tool is a 'diffusion', a wanted persons message sent through the Interpol communication system by NCBs. Unlike a more formal Interpol notice, for which approval has to be formally requested from the General Secretariat, a diffusion can be sent immediately by an NCB to some or all Interpol member countries. Diffusions are a simple, popular and effective way of sending an international alert and request for assistance about a wanted individual to police in other countries. In 2004, 8,692 diffusions were published.

In 2004, Interpol introduced its first new type of notice since 1946. Orange Notices were created in order to warn police, public institutions and other international organizations about the potential threats posed by disguised weapons, parcel bombs and other dangerous materials. Orange Notices contain details and images of objects or other threats which could be of concern to security officials around the world. Interpol facilitated the production of 15 of these new notices during the year.

10 OPERATIONAL POLICE SUPPORT SERVICES

Interpol's third core function seeks to enhance the role of National Central Bureaus and increase the General Secretariat's responsiveness to their needs. At the same time, it aims to achieve a more focused management and the integration of Sub-Regional Bureaus into overall Interpol activities.

This includes the development of emergency support and operational activities in criminal areas defined as priorities – public safety and terrorism, drugs and organized crime, trafficking in human beings, financial and high tech crime, and fugitives.

The third core function also addresses enhanced interaction and co-operation with other international organizations.

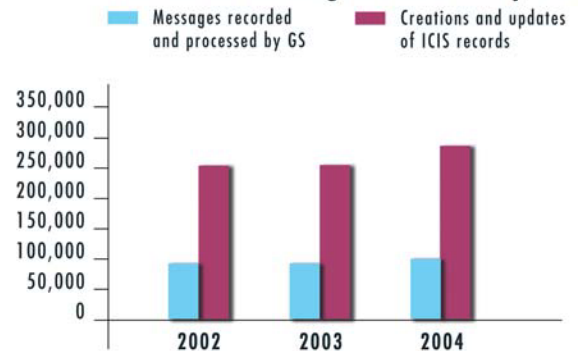## COMMAND AND CO-ORDINATION CENTRE

The Command and Co-ordination Centre (CCC) is the critical hub linking member countries and the General Secretariat for all operational police activities. It provides a single point of law enforcement contact for countries faced with a crisis situation and assistance is available in any of Interpol's four official languages. Its three primary functions are to:

> determine the priority of all incoming information and provide immediate responses to urgent requests

> undertake the co-ordination of information and intelligence exchange in large operations involving police services from different countries

> provide crisis management support in case of major international events such as large terrorist attacks, and co-ordinate expert assistance and operational aspects of the General Secretariat's Incident Response Teams (IRTs).

Messages

The majority of messages passing through the Interpol communication system in any year are from NCB to NCB, which determine whether or not to send copies of their messages to the General Secretariat. The General Secretariat scans all messages it receives to determine any necessary actions. The number of messages received was 101,048 in 2004, up 10.6% from the previous year. Action taken ranges from a direct offer of assistance to the creation of additional information in Interpol databases: 288,845 such records were created or updated in the Interpol Criminal Information System (ICIS) in 2004, up 10.4%.

Number of messages acted on by GS

Legend: Messages recorded and processed by GS; Creations and updates of ICIS records. Years: 2002, 2003, 2004.

The Command and Co-ordination Centre and the Operational Criminal Information Service (OCIS) provide active support to NCBs. As an example, they may initiate messages requesting further information or confirmation of open source information. In 2004, 9,403 messages were sent by the CCC, an increase of 11.6% from the previous year.

Incident Response Teams

Following initial experience in offering special emergency support during 2003, the General Secretariat has identified two main types of incident response assistance which can be put in place if an Interpol country requests it:

> a co-ordination and management function using the CCC as a central point for law enforcement contact

> the deployment of specialised staff from the General Secretariat or other sources as necessary to the affected area.

Many offers of Incident Response Team (IRT) assistance were made by Interpol during the year, but acceptance depends entirely on the assessment by national authorities of the need according to the specific circumstances. In 2004, teams were sent to Spain after terrorists bombed commuter trains in Madrid on 11 March, to Uzbekistan following terrorist attacks in Tashkent in March and July, and to Bangladesh after grenade attacks on a political rally and procession in Dhaka in August.

Disaster victim identification

Following a major incident, one country alone may not have sufficient resources to handle the processing of mass casualties. The CCC offers operational assistance to member countries, including the mobilisation and co-ordination of national Disaster Victim Identification teams.

Tsunami disaster

Following initial reports of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami on 26 December 2004, the CCC immediately alerted the chain of command at the General Secretariat, which set in motion the most extensive co-ordination of international DVI assistance in Interpol's history, with the majority of significant activity taking place in 2005.

AT WORK

MARCH 2004:
TASHKENT - EXPLOSION & SHOOTING

MARCH 2004:
MADRID - TRAIN BOMBING

JULY 2004:
TASHKENT - EXPLOSIONS

AUGUST 2004:
DHAKA - GRENADE ATTACK

DECEMBER 2004:
ASIAN TSUNAMI (DVI)

INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAMS

PRIORITY CRIME AREAS

Interpol's five priority crime areas are public safety and terrorism, drugs and organized crime, trafficking in human beings, financial and high tech crime and fugitives.

Public safety and terrorism

There are two main facets of Interpol's activities in this area: operational investigative support undertaken by the Fusion Project and preventive activities undertaken mainly in partnership with other organizations.

Fusion Project

Fusion is an umbrella project designed to identify active terrorist groups and their members and to analyse the information collected in order to assist the law enforcement community and key partners in security and intelligence agencies.

The increase in data collection of nominal records is always a priority in terms of basic Interpol police activities. The number of names of suspected terrorists recorded in the database during the year doubled to 3,608. In 2004, 117 countries participated in the Fusion Project and the global contact officer network increased to nearly 200 members.
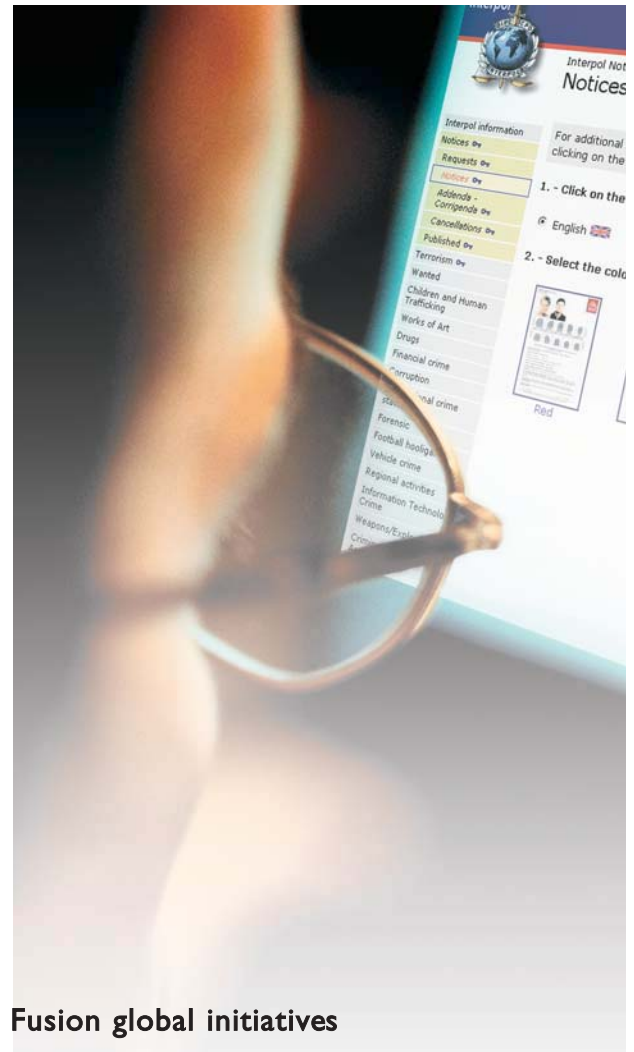
Fusion global initiatives

These projects aim to establish secure global databases containing data on terrorist organizations, their methods and membership. The projects also analyse the data collected in order to facilitate the disruption and dismantling of criminal entities that play a central role in the funding or support of terrorist activities.

As part of this work, the project maintains a database of individuals identified by member countries who have undergone or carried out training at terrorist training camps throughout the world. As well, it identifies organized criminal groups that give logistical support to terrorist organizations, such as providing identity and travel documents.

TERRORIST SUSPECTS ENTERED INTO INTERPOL DATABASES

8121

220 415 733 1587 3608

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

Important work is also being done on investigations into fund-raising and the transfer of money by alternative channels to finance terrorist cells through criminal activities such as credit card fraud, counterfeiting, and the smuggling of drugs and other goods.

In response to suggestions from participant countries, the Fusion Project has developed regional projects which use the same basic methodology but focus on terrorist activity in a particular geographical area.

Terrorism prevention activities

With funding of almost one million dollars from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a major bio-terrorism programme was launched in 2004, designed to raise awareness of the threat, develop police training programmes, strengthen efforts to enforce existing legislation, promote the development of new legislation and encourage inter-agency co-operation. The programme included a major international conference for 2005 as well as a series of regional training sessions.

Project Geiger provides intelligence data to law enforcement and regulatory bodies to help prevent the theft of radiological materials and to identify the risks, trends and methods of theft by terrorists intending to construct 'dirty' bombs.

A 'joint plan' with the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) provides a widely distributed, consolidated source of information about the roles of international organizations in a radiological incident. Interpol also works with the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) to assess the significance of trans-boundary shipments of hazardous waste and to co-ordinate law enforcement responses.

A joint Interpol-US Environmental Protection Agency training project aims to develop expertise in the investigation and prosecution of significant environmental crimes. Operation CRIT, a joint programme with the US Department of Energy and NCB Washington, provides front-line law enforcement officers with the necessary equipment and training to detect radiological security threats.

The International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System (IWETS) is designed to meet the practical needs of operational police officers. A user guide and procedural directives have been prepared, and some important changes were made in 2004 to better meet police needs.
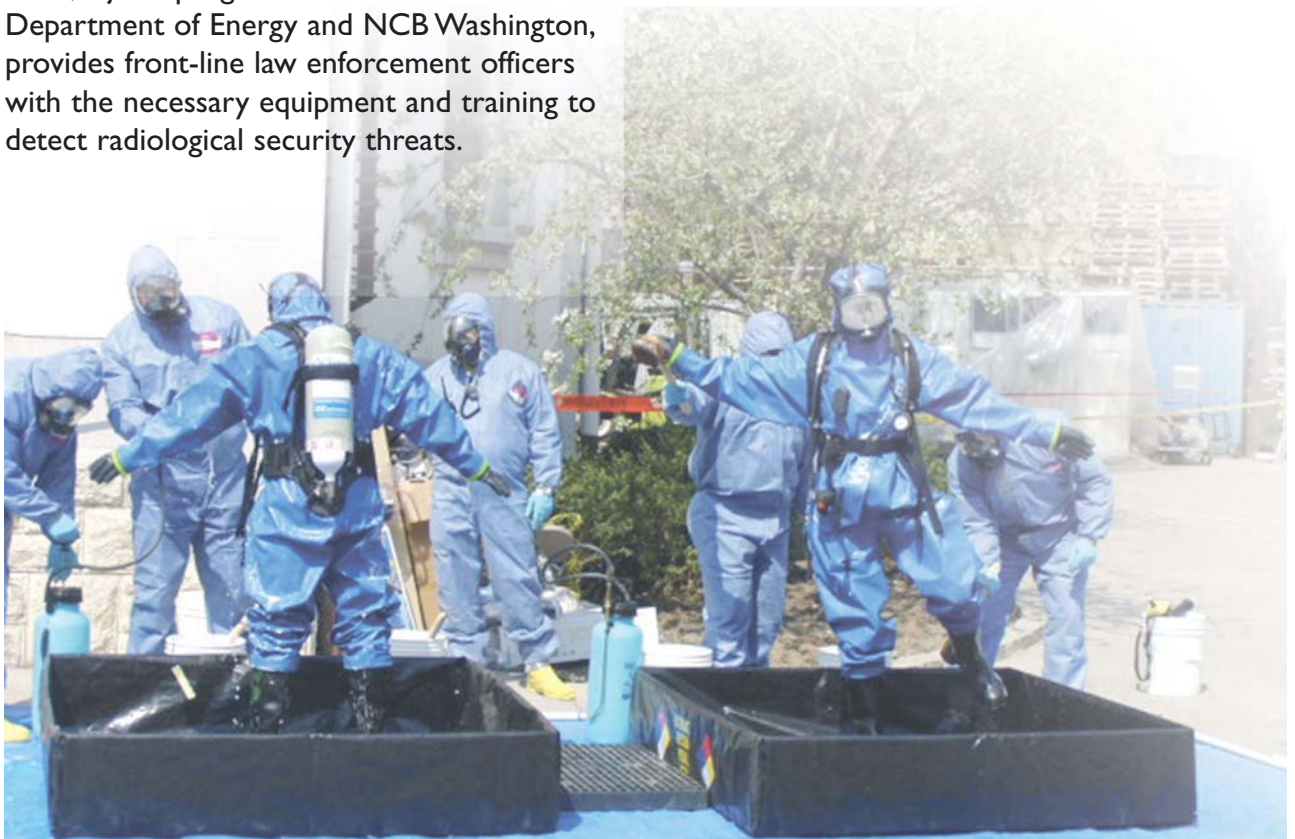
INTERPOL

Drugs and organized crime

Drugs

Interpol works closely with other law enforcement agencies around the globe to help detect and analyse the illicit movement of drugs and their proceeds.

Cocaine

Interpol's cocaine desk studies criminal groups involved in cocaine trafficking by collecting and analysing intelligence. In 2004, Interpol published a global report on cocaine trafficking which focused on seizures and emerging trends.

Operation Veronica addressed the emergence of a cocaine route between Togo in West Africa to the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Italy and the United States.

Interpol's global cocaine logo database was reorganized during 2004 and more than 100 new logo images added. Cocaine is often identified by producers through the use of distinctive logos on packaging.

Heroin

Interpol focuses particularly on the organized crime groups responsible for the trafficking of heroin in Central Asia and along the three main routes: the Silk Route, the northern route and the Balkan route.

Interpol is working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish a Central Asian Regional Information Co-ordination Centre (CARICC). Excellent relations with the Foreign Anti-Narcotic Community in Central Asia and with the drugs liaison officers in the region have led to the establishment of a network of investigators collecting and sharing intelligence and participating in a range of multilateral initiatives.

Psychotropic substances

Preparations were underway in 2004 to establish cross-border co-operation between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and to set up a working group to review the possibilities for the exchange of information on drug processing labs and drug stockpiles inside Afghanistan. The working group, which will include Interpol, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Customs Organization, will also develop a strategy to improve control of the entry of chemical precursors into Afghanistan and enhance co-operation in the region.

Interpol international training sessions on synthetic drugs were staged in Cuba and Thailand in 2004. As a result, the regional contact network has been broadened and message traffic has increased significantly.

INTERPOL

Organized crime

Interpol is heavily involved in the fight against organized crime on a number of fronts, including operational implementation of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. Interpol promotes use of its communication channels for the exchange and collection of information, with the aim of supporting member countries in ongoing international operations.

In 2004, Interpol officers on this team focused on organized crime in Eastern Europe with the aim of developing enhanced methodologies to target criminal networks in the region.

A new inter-service methodology for case-processing was also developed to uncover indications of hitherto unknown organized crime activity. The aim is to launch operations with member countries to monitor and investigate international organized crime groups.

Trafficking in human beings

Child protection unit

The year 2004 saw successful international co-operation in victim identification efforts. Police investigators from 14 different countries now participate in this collaborative activity on a daily basis. The US National Center for Missing and Exploited Children also contributes significantly to the effort.

Interpol was involved in a number of meetings during the year to assist in planning a new image analysis initiative. As some of the participant countries have little experience in the field of victim identification or image analysis, it was agreed that the Child Protection Unit at the General Secretariat would conduct the analysis of images seized during the operational phase of this initiative.

Interpol also participates in the G8 law enforcement group project for the development of an international image database, and in Virtual Global Task Force meetings to establish an international working group to combat the distribution of child pornography on the Internet.

Three training courses on computer-facilitated crimes against children were organized in 2004 in Croatia, South Africa and Hong Kong.

People smuggling

The main focus remains the involvement of organized crime groups in the smuggling of Asian nationals. Project Bridge has an operational approach designed to facilitate the efficient collection of intelligence on those groups. It also identifies new trends and modus operandi which may be implemented in other countries.

Participating countries have access to analytical assistance in detecting links between enquiries carried out in different countries and identifying key figures in international people smuggling networks. Following the 7th Working Group Meeting on Project Bridge, analytical reports on the structures of offender groups, routes and modus operandi were distributed to participating countries.

Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation

In 2004 the Interpol working group on trafficking in women disseminated its first analytical report. The report identified those European countries affected most by trafficking in women originating from Eastern Europe. Work has been extended to the African region, where a project on trafficking in women for sexual exploitation has been initiated.

The contact network continued to grow and now includes officers in more than 50 countries. There has been a steady increase in the sharing of information between law enforcement partners and the General Secretariat.

AT WORK

Financial and high tech crime

Intellectual property crime

Interpol co-ordinates a growing intellectual property (IP) crime action group that brings together law enforcement agencies, international organizations and representative bodies from industry.

During 2004, the Interpol Intellectual Property Crime Unit developed an operational capability to facilitate and co-ordinate enforcement against transnational IP crime on a regional basis. The first operation took place in the tri-border area of South America (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay) in November 2004.

This project has enabled the production of IP crime training materials on CD-ROM in the four Interpol languages and supported the continuing development of operational capability at the General Secretariat.

Financial fraud

Approximately 14,000 cases of financial fraud have been identified in the main Interpol database. The focus has been on examination of investment fraud with a view to the provision of operational assistance and the co-ordination of international fraud investigations in complex multilateral cases. Analysis has revealed links between individuals and companies in different fraud incidents spread across many countries.

Fraud alerts were created and published on the Interpol public website with recommendations for the protection of individuals concerning West African advance fee fraud, lottery fraud and, following the Asian tsunami disaster, disaster charity and disaster reconstruction fraud.

Internet auction platforms continue to be a cause for concern. Recommendations and advice were offered to private industry to encourage them to inform their clients of the risks of identity theft and follow-up fraud. Warnings rapidly appeared on the websites of the companies contacted.

Viruses
Worms
Hackers...

High Tech Crime Unit

Cyber Crime is Real Crime

INTERPOL

Information technology crime

Interpol is prioritising a new training and operational standards initiative to develop national capacity in the investigation of information technology (IT) crime. The programme involves the following activities:

> development and harmonisation of best practice in relation to training standards in IT crime investigation techniques
> co-ordination and communication between organizations and Interpol members to encourage sharing of IT crime investigation training programmes
> creation and maintenance of a database for law enforcement on available training accessible through the secure website and the I-24/7 system
> evaluation and upgrading of the existing IT crime manual.

During 2004, three training programmes were delivered in Europe, and the first Interpol 'train the trainer' workshop for the Asia & South Pacific region was delivered in Seoul, Korea.

Money laundering and financing of terrorism

Interpol invested significant energy in 2004 to developing a stronger presence in the international financial arena by participating in key conferences and programmes. A working group on money laundering and the financing of terrorism was created with members from UNODC and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), among others.

Interpol's objective in forming the working group is to co-ordinate its anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism initiatives with those of other similarly engaged organizations.

Fugitives

Fugitives investigative support (FIS) is a team of police officers and lawyers at the General Secretariat that provides support to major international fugitive investigations. They focus primarily on groups of fugitives, on cases that involve several countries and on the development of new investigative leads in cases that have stalled.

FIS is responsible for Interpol's international notices system and works to improve the services provided to member countries with regard to the location and apprehension of fugitives and related matters.

Arrests following notices or diffusions
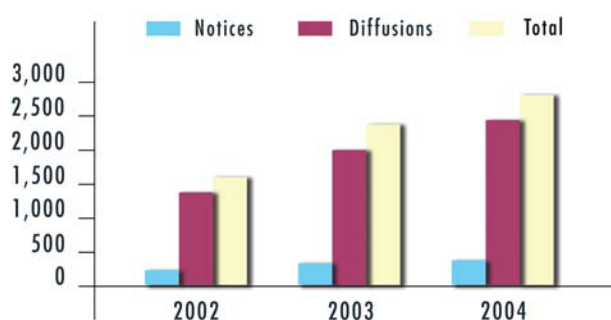
Nearly 3,000 individuals who were the subject of Interpol notices or diffusions were apprehended in 2004.

AT WORK

CRIMINAL ANALYSIS

Interpol's crime analysts have undertaken a number of strategic and operational projects on behalf of member countries.

Operationally they have contributed in the fields of terrorism and terrorist financing, drugs, fraud and illegal immigration. In addition, analytical support has been provided for a number of Interpol's Incident Response Teams.

On the strategic level, various assessments on people smuggling have been produced, including the joint Interpol-Europol initiative on people smuggling in the Eastern Mediterranean (EMED). As well, evaluations of the threat of radical fundamentalist groups and networks and various public order assessments have been undertaken.

The Criminal Analysis section also continued to provide training to managers' awareness seminars and basic two-week operational analysis courses for member countries, delivered regionally to maximise participation.

INTERPOL ACTIVITIES IN THE REGIONS

During 2004, structures at the General Secretariat were realigned to provide more focused support for NCBs and regional offices. For practical purposes, five regions have been designated: Africa, the Americas, Asia & South Pacific, Europe, and Middle East & North Africa. Each region is supported by a desk at the General Secretariat and by one or more Sub-Regional Bureaus, also known as regional bureaus.

Structurally part of the General Secretariat, but physically present in the regions, there are currently five SRBs: Abidjan, Harare and Nairobi in Africa, and Buenos Aires and San Salvador in the Americas. There is also an Interpol liaison office in Bangkok (LOBANG), which formerly dealt solely with drug matters, but now operates essentially as a regional bureau for Asia.

Africa

A key role of the Interpol Africa Desk is to provide assistance in the development of regional legal frameworks for police co-operation. This is carried out in direct co-operation with the relevant regional structures.

In South Africa, 1,966 stolen motor vehicles were traced in 38 different countries

INTERPOL

Central Africa
> a convention on the creation of a specialised criminal investigation training centre for Central Africa was ratified by the Central African Police Chiefs Committee (CAPCC) in Libreville, Gabon, in May 2004
> a draft convention between the countries represented on CAPCC in the fight against terrorism was also ratified in Libreville in May.

West Africa
> a draft convention on the fight against terrorism between the countries represented on the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCC) ratified in Abuja, Nigeria, in September 2004
> protocol for the creation of an Office of Criminal Intelligence and Investigation for CEDEAO, adopted and ratified in Abuja in September
> a draft legal guide to police co-operation between the countries represented on WAPCC was produced.

Five training courses for NCB staff and law enforcement personnel from sub-Saharan Africa were delivered, in English or French, in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Sudan.

SRB Nairobi - East Africa

The SRB continues to provide the secretariat for the East African Police Chiefs Committee (EAPCCO), and 2004 saw good progress on an initiative for the SRB to become a regional training centre for a range of crime investigation techniques. During 2004, the SRB was particularly active in a number of key areas of special relevance to law enforcement in the region.

Stolen motor vehicles — the EAPCCO Vehicle Clearance Certificate is designed to prevent the re-registration of stolen vehicles and expand use of the stolen motor vehicle database within the region. The regional clearance certificate was approved in September 2004 and is expected to be operational after a training course to be held in Tanzania in 2005 with financial support from the General Secretariat.

Cattle rustling — funding was obtained from the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) for three regional meetings on control measures against cattle rustling which were held throughout the year. As a result, a range of preventive measures was agreed and an implementation programme prepared.

Small arms and light weapons — the SRB has been working with the Nairobi EAPCCO Secretariat to offer training to law enforcement officers at all levels on regional and international control measures for firearms, investigation techniques and the training of trainers.

AT WORK

SRB Abidjan - West Africa

Despite the political difficulties in 2004 in Côte d'Ivoire, the SRB continued to operate as normally as possible, although activities were curtailed according to circumstances. The SRB provided the secretariat for the two regional police chiefs' organizations, CAPCC and WAPCCO.

A new initiative was launched in 2004 focusing on illegal migration flows from Africa to Europe. A first international meeting was held in September 2004 with participants from some 30 countries.

SRB Harare - Southern Africa

During 2004 the office was relocated to a new Interpol building and connected to the I-24/7 system. The SRB continues to provide the secretariat for the South African Regional Police Chiefs Committee (SARPCCO), which was the first regional police chiefs committee in Africa and has matured into an influential law enforcement entity in the region.

Initiatives in 2004 included:

Small arms and related materials — implementation of the SADC Protocol, aimed at stemming the problem of illicit small arms which underpin most cases of violent crime in the region.

Anti-Terrorism Early Warning Centre for Southern Africa — a pilot project to monitor developments relating to terrorism in the region and act as an early warning centre.

Operation Mhakure — SARPCCO has been engaged in the execution of a joint operation with police from other countries in the region to locate and recover stolen motor vehicles. The SRB assists by providing co-ordination and liaison functions for the countries involved.

The Americas

The primary objective of the Interpol Americas Desk is to support regional and national crime-fighting activities by providing a wide range of operational and administrative services.

Operation Andes II — the second part of a joint Interpol-WCO initiative which unites police and customs officers in the fight against trafficking of drug precursors.

Co-operation agreement between Interpol and Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council — the Caribbean is an important route for the transportation of cocaine by maritime and air traffic to the US and Europe, and therefore vital to anti-drug trafficking activities.

The Americas Desk has been actively participating in developing training courses organized by Interpol, the United Nations and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Centre. The aim of this project is to develop a package of training courses on policing illegal trafficking in small weapons in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. In 2004, 'train the trainer' courses were held in Costa Rica, Brazil and Peru.

SRB Buenos Aires – South America

The SRB continued to strengthen relationships with NCBs in the region. Ongoing training for SRB officers was a priority, particularly in the areas of good practice and the use of the I-24/7 system and its services.

Among other initiatives undertaken:

Operation Jupiter — addresses the problem of intellectual property crime through partnership between private sector companies and police in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, with assistance from the General Secretariat intellectual property crime unit.

Operation Amazon — is designed to look at the possible presence of members of Islamic radical movements in Latin America.

SRB San Salvador – Central America

The SRB continued to develop with the arrival of two new seconded liaison officers from El Salvador and Peru. This increase in staff resources has already extended the options for activities planned for 2005, which include conferences on gangs, trafficking in stolen vehicles, terrorism in Central America and I-24/7 training.

I-24/7 strategy meeting — the heads of NCBs from Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama agreed on a plan for mutual assistance in the installation of the I-24/7 system in their countries.

Project RECSI — a regional project to develop a Central American information network on the theft and recovery of vehicles, involving the extension of I-24/7 connections to the national vehicle units of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. SRB San Salvador provided technical assistance in conjunction with General Secretariat staff.

I-24/7 training — the first course for NCB officers from Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama took place in 2004.

AT WORK

Asia & South Pacific

Officers on Interpol's Asia and South Pacific desk were involved in providing liaison support and assistance in a wide variety of operational investigations involving NCBs in member countries in Asia and the South Pacific.
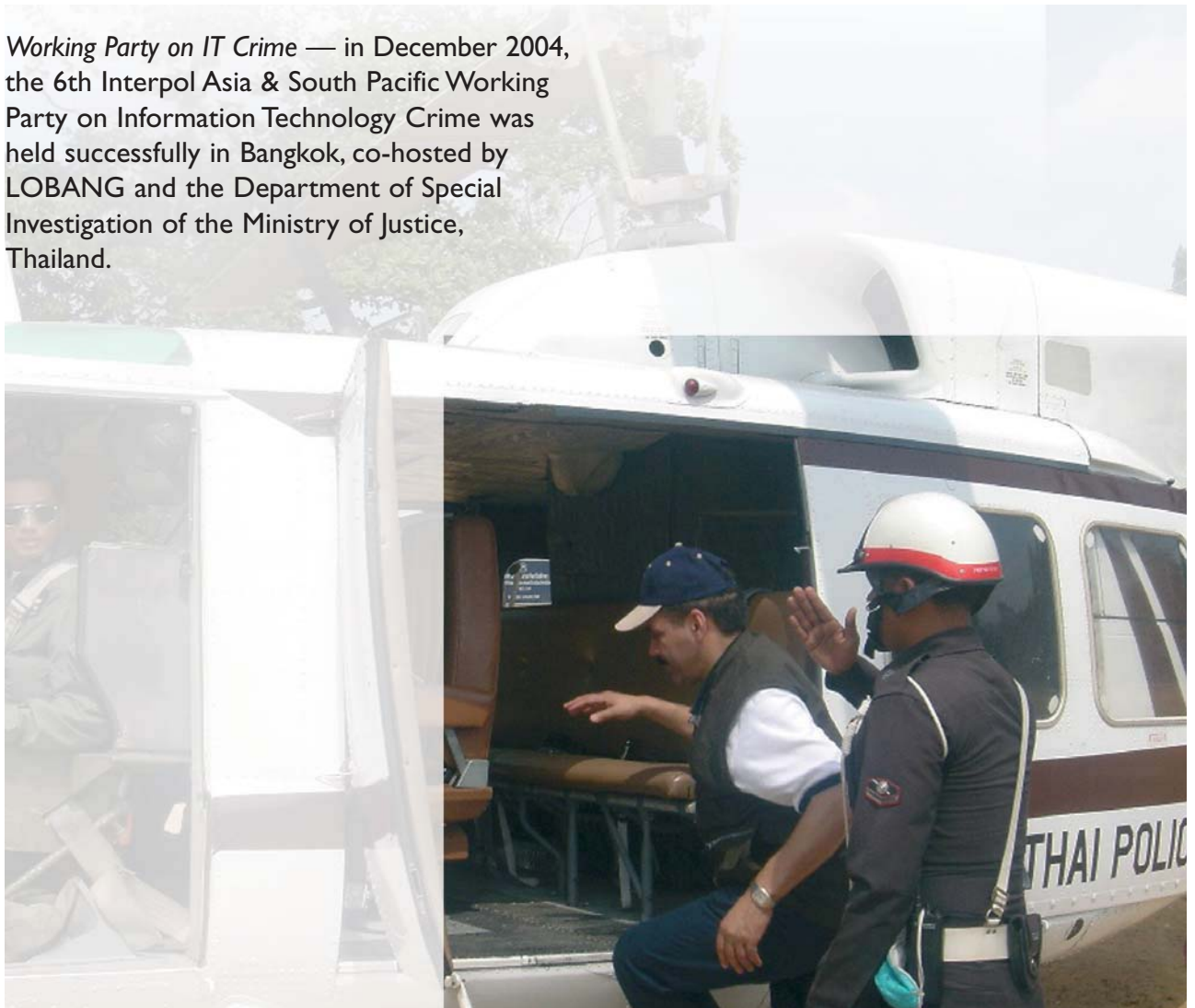
Liaison office in Bangkok - LOBANG

The year 2004 saw a significant strengthening of human resources at the liaison office in Bangkok with the arrival of new seconded officers from Australia, China and Korea. A fundamental aspect of the office's role is to act as the Asian co-ordination point for General Secretariat-led initiatives.

Working Party on IT Crime — in December 2004, the 6th Interpol Asia & South Pacific Working Party on Information Technology Crime was held successfully in Bangkok, co-hosted by LOBANG and the Department of Special Investigation of the Ministry of Justice, Thailand.

Identification Fraud Working Group (IFWG) — LOBANG joined the IFWG with other foreign law enforcement agencies stationed in Bangkok to determine the level of identity fraud emanating from Thailand.

Following the tsunami disaster in the region in late December, the office facilitated procedures for member countries sending DVI teams to Thailand and, with the General Secretariat, helped to set up a DVI co-ordination centre in Phuket.

INTERPOL

Europe

The 33rd European Regional Conference was held in Kiev, Ukraine, and four Interpol European committee meetings took place during the year. The annual European contact officers meeting was held in September 2004, with 34 of 46 European countries in attendance. During the conference, the final report of peer evaluation and good practice programme was presented. The evaluation team put forward 48 recommendations, mainly linked with the standards relating to the provision of 24-hour service and to the processing of messages.

The Interpol Europe Desk significantly strengthened its co-operation with other regional and international organizations such as the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, the Baltic Sea Task Force, the Stability Pact, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Police Chiefs' Task Force, European Commission and Europol through the organization of and attendance at conferences, meetings, working groups and projects.

European Union/Interpol CARDS Project — this European Commission programme to modernise the NCBs in five Balkan countries ended in 2004. During the two-year project, the General Secretariat was directly involved in the evaluation of needs, delivery and installation of equipment, and provision of training in the five beneficiary countries.

Support at international sporting events — Interpol representatives were sent to the Euro 2004 football championship in Portugal and the Olympic Games 2004 in Athens to provide a range of services to strengthen law enforcement co-operation and communication services.

Maritime crime database — a feasibility study on the creation of a database on ships and containers used in illegal activities was conducted in close co-operation with criminal analysts. By the end of 2004, 42 countries had replied to a questionnaire and the final report was to be presented in early 2005.

North Africa & the Middle East

The fourth regional training course for NCB officers from North Africa & the Middle East took place in Cairo, Egypt, during November 2004. NCBs from all but two countries in the region participated, with more than 40 police officers in attendance, including representatives from Sudan and Mauritania for the first time.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATIONS

Media

The media have always shown considerable interest in Interpol and its activities. Through increased use of targeted media releases and the further development of working relationships with key editors and journalists, accurate information about Interpol was provided to the media more effectively.

More than 800 media inquiries were directed to the Interpol press office in 2004, a large number of these from major international media organizations. Journalists are also provided with a special section on the public website which gives advice about how to make best use of the Interpol press office and how to find relevant information on the site.

News organizations now regularly contact Interpol for comment or information about major crimes or terrorist events. Interpol features consistently and positively in the daily news cuttings collected by the press office. Some 7,000 articles mentioned Interpol during the year, although there is still an ongoing need to remain alert to and seek to correct inaccuracies as they occur in media reports.

Website success

A particularly effective way of satisfying external demand for information about Interpol is through the public part of the website. The public site saw 2.8 million visits (user sessions) in 2004, up 12% from 2003. It also logged 70.6 million 'hits' (the number of pages or graphics actually retrieved from the site), a 40% increase from 50.6 million the previous year.
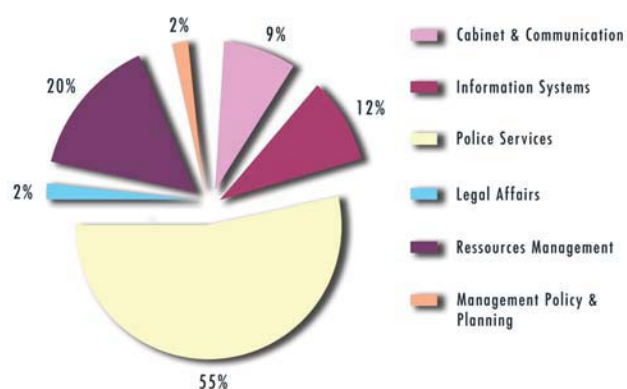
The average length of time users stayed on the site was eight minutes, approximately the same as in 2003. The most popular parts of the public area were the home page, the 'Wanted' pages, the section on terrorism and the recruitment pages.

Number of media releases
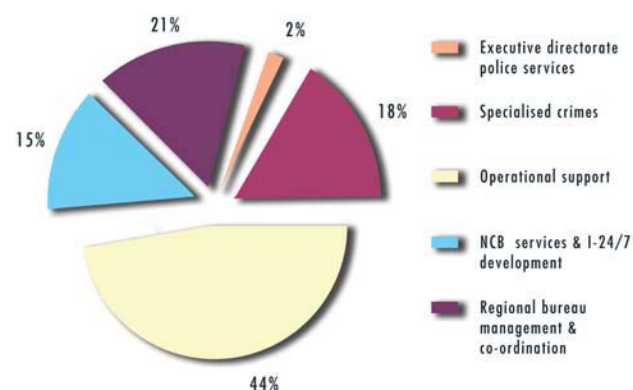

Public website user sessions
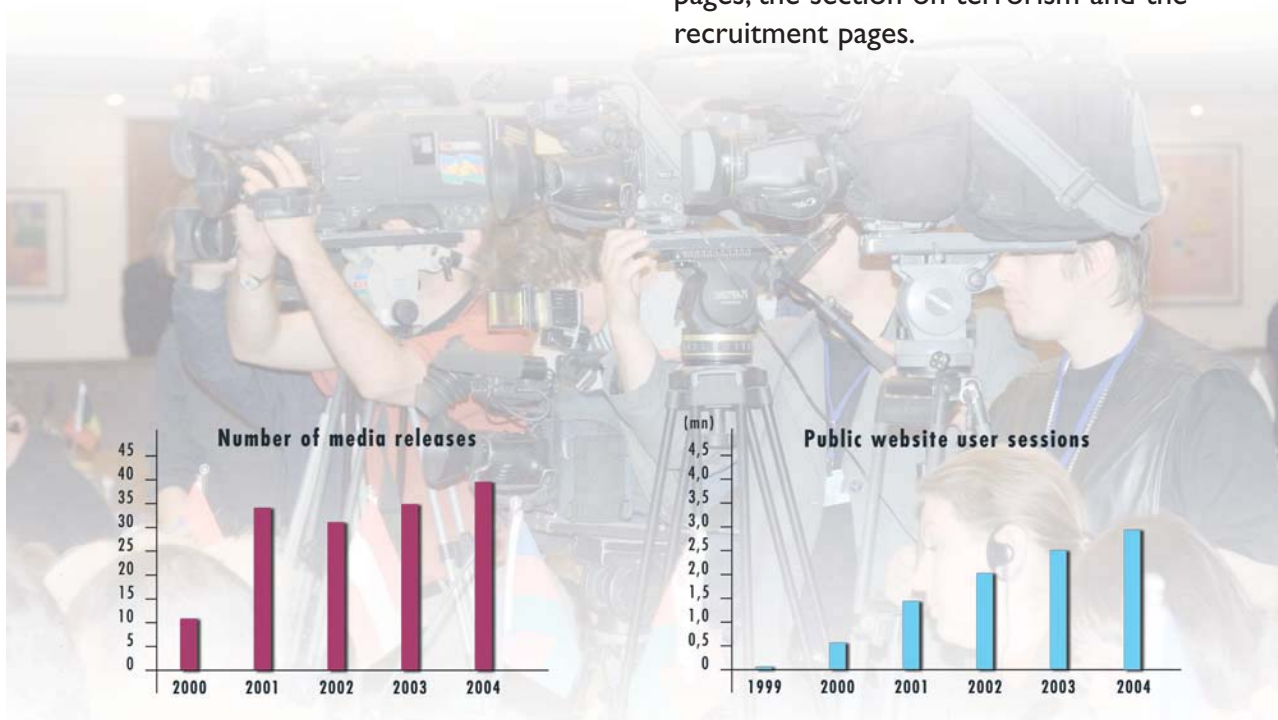
HUMAN RESOURCES

As of 31 December 2004, a total of 443 staff members from 81 different countries were employed at the General Secretariat in Lyon, the SRBs and the UN office. Of these, 145 (33% of the total) were seconded officers and 20 (5%) were detached officials, that is, officials for whom Interpol reimburses the officer's national authorities for part or all of the cost of that officer. The remaining 278, or 63%, were officials under contract.

Staff analysis by activity type

Legend:
- Cabinet & Communication
- Information Systems
- Police Services
- Legal Affairs
- Ressources Management
- Management Policy & Planning

Police services analysed by activity type

Legend:
- Executive directorate police services
- Specialised crimes
- Operational support
- NCB services & I-24/7 development
- Regional bureau management & co-ordination

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY

Income and expenditure 2004

	(000 euros)
Income	
Statutory contributions	31,132
Sub-Regional Bureau financing	584
Reimbursements and recoveries	378
Financial income	551
Other income	1,643
Total income	**34,288**
Expenditure	
Pay costs	19,873
Other staff costs	762
Premises running costs	664
Maintenance	1,209
Office expenses	1,333
Missions and meetings	3,528
Telecommunication costs	1,640
Third party and other costs	465
Exchange rate losses	31
Total expenditures	**29,505**
Operational surplus	**4,784**
Capital programme	
(IT systems and communications, works at General Secretariat, works at SRBs, projects for I-24/7 at NCBs/SRBs)	**2,150**
Financial surplus for the year	**2,634**

AT WORK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004)

President
Jackie Selebi, South Africa, 2004-2008

Vice-President Americas
Michael J. Garcia, USA, 2003-2006

Vice-President Asia
Prem Chand Sharma, India, 2003-2006

Vice-President Europe
Rodolfo Ronconi, Italy, 2004-2007

Delegates for Africa
Agathe Florence Lélé, Cameroon, 2003-2006
Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed, Egypt, 2002-2005

Delegates for the Americas
Genaro Garcia Luna, Mexico, 2004-2005
Artura Herrera Verdugo, Chile, 2004-2006

Delegates for Asia
Georges Boustani, Lebanon, 2003-2006
Hiroaki Takizawa, Japan, 2003-2006

Delegates for Europe
Mireille Ballestrazzi, France, 2002-2005
Juris Jasinkevics, Latvia, 2002-2005
Ken Pandolfi, UK, 2004-2006

REGIONAL OFFICES

Sub-Regional Bureaus
South America: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Central America: San Salvador, El Salvador
West Africa: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
East and Central Africa: Nairobi, Kenya
Southern Africa: Harare, Zimbabwe

Liaison office
Asia: Bangkok, Thailand

INTERPOL

Outgoing Interpol President Jesús Espigares Mira (2000-2004), left, and Secretary General Ronald K. Noble, centre, congratulate newly elected Interpol President Jackie Selebi during the 73rd General Assembly in Cancún, Mexico.

MEMBER COUNTRIES, NCBs AND SUB-BUREAUS

Member country, NCB/Sub-Bureau

Afghanistan, Kabul
Albania, Tirana
Algeria, Algiers
American Samoa (US),
Pago Pago
Andorra, Andorra la Vella
Angola, Luanda
Anguilla (UK), The Valley
Antigua and Barbuda,
St John's
Argentina, Buenos Aires
Armenia, Yerevan
Aruba, Oranjestad
Australia, Canberra
Austria, Vienna
Azerbaijan, Baku
Bahamas, Nassau
Bahrain, Adaliya
Bangladesh, Dhaka
Barbados, Bridgetown
Belarus, Minsk
Belgium, Brussels
Belize, Belmopan
Benin, Cotonou
Bermuda (UK), Hamilton
Bolivia, La Paz
Bosnia-Herzegovina,
Sarajevo
Botswana, Gaborone
Brazil, Brasilia
British Virgin Islands (UK),
Road Town, Tortola
Brunei, Bandar Seri Begawan
Bulgaria, Sofia
Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou
Burundi, Bujumbura
Cambodia, Phnom Penh
Cameroon, Yaoundé
Canada, Ottawa
Cape Verde, Praia
Cayman Islands (UK),
George Town
Central African Republic,
Bangui
Chad, N'Djamena
Chile, Santiago
China, Beijing
Colombia, Bogota
Comoros, Moroni
Congo, Brazzaville
Congo (Democratic Rep.),
Kinshasa
Costa Rica, San José
Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan

Croatia, Zagreb
Cuba, Havana
Cyprus, Nicosia
Czech Republic, Prague
Denmark, Copenhagen
Djibouti, Djibouti
Dominica, Roseau
Dominican Republic,
Santo Domingo
East Timor, Dili
Ecuador, Quito
Egypt, Cairo
El Salvador, San Salvador
Equatorial Guinea,
Malabo
Eritrea, Asmara
Estonia, Tallinn
Ethiopia, Addis Ababa
Fiji, Suva
Finland, Vantaa
**Former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia**, Skopje
France, Nanterre
Gabon, Libreville
Gambia, Banjul
Georgia, Tbilisi
Germany, Wiesbaden
Gibraltar (UK), Gibraltar
Ghana, Accra
Greece, Athens
Grenada, St George's
Guatemala, Guatemala City
Guinea, Conakry
Guinea-Bissau, Bissau
Guyana, Georgetown
Haiti, Port-au-Prince
Honduras, Tegucigalpa
Hong Kong (China),
Hong Kong
Hungary, Budapest
Iceland, Reykjavik
India, New Delhi
Indonesia, Jakarta
Iran, Tehran
Iraq, Baghdad
Ireland, Dublin
Israel, Jerusalem
Italy, Rome
Jamaica, Kingston
Japan, Tokyo
Jordan, Amman
Kazakhstan, Almaty
Kenya, Nairobi
Korea (Rep. of), Seoul

Kuwait,
Dahiyat Abdullah Al-Salem
Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
Laos, Vientiane
Latvia, Riga
Lebanon, Beirut
Lesotho, Maseru
Liberia, Monrovia
Libya, Tripoli
Liechtenstein, Vaduz
Lithuania, Vilnius
Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Macao (China), Macao
Madagascar, Antananarivo
Malawi, Lilongwe
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
Maldives, Malé
Mali, Bamako
Malta, Floriana
Marshall Islands, Majuro
Mauritania, Nouakchott
Mauritius, Port Louis
Mexico, Mexico City
Moldova (Rep. of), Chisinau
Monaco, Monaco
Mongolia, Ulan Bator
Montserrat (UK), Plymouth
Morocco, Rabat
Mozambique, Maputo
Myanmar, Yangon
Namibia, Windhoek
Nauru, Yeren
Nepal, Kathmandu
Netherlands, The Hague
Netherlands Antilles,
Willemstad
New Zealand, Wellington
Nicaragua, Managua
Niger, Niamey
Nigeria, Lagos
Norway, Oslo
Oman, Muscat
Pakistan, Islamabad
Panama, Panama City
Papua New Guinea,
Konedobu
Paraguay, Asunción
Peru, Lima
Philippines, Manila
Poland, Warsaw
Portugal, Lisbon
Puerto Rico (US), San Juan
Qatar, Doha
Romania, Bucharest

Russia, Moscow
Rwanda, Kigali
St Kitts and Nevis,
Basseterre
St Lucia, Castries
**St Vincent and the
Grenadines**, Kingstown
São Tomé and Principe,
São Tomé
Saudi Arabia, Riyadh
Senegal, Dakar
Serbia and Montenegro,
Belgrade
Seychelles, Victoria (Mahé)
Sierra Leone, Freetown
Singapore, Singapore
Slovakia, Bratislava
Slovenia, Ljubljana
Somalia, Mogadishu
South Africa, Pretoria
Spain, Madrid
Sri Lanka, Colombo
Sudan, Khartoum
Suriname, Paramaribo
Swaziland, Mbabane
Sweden, Stockholm
Switzerland, Berne
Syria, Damascus
Tajikistan, Dushanbe
Tanzania, Dar es Salaam
Thailand, Bangkok
Togo, Lomé
Tonga, Nuku'alofa
Trinidad and Tobago,
Port of Spain
Tunisia, Tunis
Turkey, Ankara
Turks and Caicos (UK),
Providenciales
Uganda, Kampala
Ukraine, Kiev
United Arab Emirates,
Abu Dhabi
United Kingdom, London
United States of America,
Washington DC
Uruguay, Montevideo
Uzbekistan, Tashkent
Venezuela, Caracas
Vietnam, Hanoi
Yemen, Sana'a
Zambia, Lusaka
Zimbabwe, Harare